

**FREEBRIDGE LYNN  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT**

of the

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

---

**1949**



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## **STAFF**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:  
J. HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR:  
W. R. WATKINS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

**THE ANNUAL REPORT**  
**of the**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**for the**  
**RURAL DISTRICT OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN**  
**For the Year 1949**

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Mr. Chairman, My Lord, My Lady, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District during the year 1949.

There were no outbreaks of serious infectious disease, and the general health was good.

One case of Poliomyelitis occurred in the District. Another case developed in a person thirteen days after leaving the district to reside in Cheshire.

An outbreak of Infective Hepatitis (Epidemic Catarrhal Jaundice) began at Castleacre in May, and cases persisted until the end of the year. Small groups of cases were reported from Leziate and Ashwicken.

I tender my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kind consideration during the year, and express my appreciation of the hard, productive work of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. W. R. Watkins.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HAMILTON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

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### A. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

#### *Hospitals.*

#### 1. General Hospitals.

- (a) West Norfolk & King's Lynn General Hospital.
- (b) St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn (for chronic sick).

#### 2. Maternity Units.

- (a) West Norfolk & King's Lynn General Hospital.  
The "Queen Elizabeth Maternity Unit" of 25 beds was opened on 31st July, 1949.
- (b) St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn.  
The 4-bedded Maternity Ward was closed in April, 1949.
- (c) Stow Hall Maternity Hospital was opened on 21st January, 1949, with 30 beds.

#### 3. Isolation Hospitals.

- (a) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
- (b) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

(Cases are removed to the Isolation Hospital when proper isolation, or adequate nursing arrangements, cannot be provided in the homes. Disinfection is carried out at the homes when considered necessary. Bedding and other articles can be dealt with at the disinfecting plant at King's Lynn Isolation Hospital.)

#### 4. Tuberculosis.

- (a) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
- (b) Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

#### 5. Mental Hospitals.

- (a) St. Andrew's Hospital, Norwich.
- (b) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
- (c) Little Plumstead Hospital.
- (d) Heckingham Hospital.



### *Clinics and Treatment Centres.*

Chest, Eye, Venereal Diseases, and Orthopaedic Clinics are regularly held at the West Norfolk & King's Lynn General Hospital, King's Lynn.

## **B. COUNTY COUNCIL.**

### *Maternity, Child Welfare, Etc.*

District Nurse/Midwives are stationed at North Wootton, Flitcham, Middleton, Grimston, Westacre, Great Massingham and Dersingham (for the Sandringham area). The District Nurses act as Health Visitors, and Home Nurses. A cot for the home nursing of premature babies, and oxygen apparatus is kept at the Area Health Office, 3, King Street, King's Lynn.

An Infant Welfare Centre was opened at Pott Row, Grimston, in June, 1949.

### *2. Home Help Service.*

At the end of the year there were six enrolled "Occasional" Home Helps. During the year assistance was given to 21 homes: 7 maternity and 11 sickness cases, and 3 in which aged and infirm people were helped. In 1948 there had been no requests for Home Helps.

### *3. Ambulance Services.*

#### *(a) Non-infectious cases.*

Three Red Cross ambulances stationed at King's Lynn are available, by arrangement with the County Council. A Hospital Car Service is also available for patients who need transport but do not require ambulances.

#### *(b) Infectious Cases.*

The County Council has an ambulance at King's Lynn Isolation Hospital for the use of the district.

### *4. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.*

The District shares the services of a Tuberculosis Health Visitor. The Red Cross and St. John's organisation maintain Medical Loan Depots at Ashwicken, Castleacre and North Wootton, from which sick-room equipment can be had on loan.

### *5. Mental Health Services.*

The Local Welfare Officers had "office" accommodation at Grimston, Great Massingham and Castleacre, and paid weekly



visits to these places.

An Occupation Centre for mentally handicapped children was opened in King's Lynn in September, 1949. Two pupils from the District attend it. This Centre has already proved itself an efficient one, doing very useful work.

6. *Miscellaneous.*

**Chemical, Etc., Analysis.**

Chemical Analysis, when required, is carried out at Cambridge by Dr. S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C. The services of the Public Health Laboratory, Norwich, are available for bacteriological investigations into the causes of diseases.

**VITAL STATISTICS**

Population — 10,550 (10,310)

<b>Births:</b>		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	....	84 (88)	90 (88)	174 (176)
Illegitimate	....	10 (10)	9 (5)	19 (15)
		<hr/> 94 (98)	<hr/> 99 (93)	<hr/> 193 (191)

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	18.57
Birth Rate England & Wales per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	16.7
Still-births	....	....	3 (2)
Still-birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	0.28
Still-birth Rate England & Wales per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	0.39

**Deaths:**

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	66 (59)	71 (71)	137 (130)
Death Rate (standardized) per 1,000 estimated population			10.64
Death Rate England & Wales per 1,000 estimated population			11.7
Deaths of Infants one year and under			4 (7)
Deaths of infants one year and under per 1,000 live births			20.72
Deaths of infants one year and under England & Wales per 1,000 live births			32
Maternal Mortality	....	....	Nil.
Deaths from Tuberculosis	....	....	5 (2)
Deaths from Tuberculosis per 1,000 estimated population			0.46
Deaths from Tuberculosis per 1,000 estimated population England & Wales	....	....	0.45

(1948 figures in parentheses)

Births exceeded deaths by 56, and more infants survived than in 1948. There were five premature births, with two survivals.

The increase in the number of deaths was caused by a rise in the mortality from diseases of the heart and circulation, causes which were responsible for half the deaths registered, and were outstanding as the means of death among the aged.

There were no deaths under these classifications among the young, and only two in middle-aged people.

13·8% of the deaths were due to cancer, which had four deaths fewer than in 1948.

There was no maternal mortality.

The causes of the four infants' deaths were two Prematurity, one Cerebral Haemorrhage, one Congenital Malformation. Three of these deaths might have been preventable in overall favourable conditions.

Under the age of 45 (apart from the deaths of infants under one year) there were 14 deaths, and eight of these could be termed preventable or avoidable, viz., Accident four, Tuberculosis three, Tetanus one.

Apart from Tuberculosis, Infectious Diseases caused seven of the registered deaths, viz., Pneumonia four, Influenza one, Poliomyelitis one, and Syphilitic Infection one. The Influenzal and Pneumonia deaths were all those of aged persons, and could be considered unavoidable. The Poliomyelitis death occurred outside the district in a case which could well have contracted the disease outside the area. The death from Syphilitic infection is an example of a fatality which might well have been prevented by timely and adequate treatment.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis was the cause of all the Tuberculosis deaths. Two males and three females died from the disease. The youngest of the five was 23 years old, the others being 35, 43, 51 and 77 years of age. The Tuberculosis death rate was practically equivalent to that for the whole country.

# CLASSIFICATION OF THE CAUSES OF DEATHS

## ACCORDING TO DISEASES

(1948 figures in parentheses)

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers ....	—	—	—
2. Cerebrospinal Fever ....	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ....	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ....	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ....	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2 (2)	3 (—)	5 (2)
7. Tuberculosis (other forms) ....	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases ....	1 (1)	—	1 (1)
9. Influenza ....	—	1 (1)	1 (—)
10. Measles ....	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis ....	—	1 (—)	1 (—)
12. Acute Inf. Encephalitis ....	—	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity } Oesophagus } Uterus }	1 (2)	2 (3)	3 (5)
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2 (1)	—	2 (1)
15. Cancer of Breast ....	—	1 (4)	1 (4)
16. Cancer of all other sites ....	6 (7)	7 (6)	13 (13)
17. Diabetes ....	—	—	—
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions ....	7 (6)	11 (8)	18 (14)
19. Heart Disease ....	23 (18)	18 (21)	41 (39)
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	2 (3)	6 (2)	8 (5)
21. Bronchitis ....	1 (3)	4 (2)	5 (5)
22. Pneumonia ....	3 (1)	1 (2)	4 (3)
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ....	1 (—)	1 (1)	2 (1)
24. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ....	—	— (2)	— (2)
26. Appendicitis ....	1 (—)	—	1 (—)
27. Other Digestive Diseases ....	— (1)	3 (3)	3 (4)
28. Nephritis ....	1 (4)	1 (1)	2 (5)
29. Puerperal & Post-Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes ....	—	—	—
31. Premature Births ....	2 (1)	—	2 (1)
32. Congenital Malformations: Birth Injuries — Infant Diseases ....	1 (3)	1 (4)	2 (7)
33. Suicide ....	1 (—)	—	1 (—)
34. Road Traffic Act ....	2 (—)	1 (1)	3 (1)
35. Other Violent Causes ....	1 (2)	2 (—)	3 (2)
36. All other causes ....	8 (4)	7 (9)	15 (13)



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1949 (in Age-Groups)

Notifiable Disease.	Age Groups							Total
	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever ....		3	6			1		10
Measles .....	4	61	76	5	3			149
Whooping Cough		13	6		1			20
Pneumonia ....		3		1	1	1	1	7
Chicken Pox ....		4	20	1				25
Tuberculosis Pulmonary ....				2	1		1	4
Tuberculosis other forms ....			4		2			6
Poliomyelitis ....			1					1
Jaundice .....		3	23	4	3	3		36
Erysipelas.....							1	1
	4	87	136	13	11	5	3	259

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 259 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, an increase of 126 over 1948. This was due to an epidemic of Measles, appreciable increases in the number of cases of Jaundice and Chicken Pox, and slight rises in number of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough cases compared with the previous year.

Measles became epidemic in October, reached its peak in November, and affected mostly Middleton, East Winch and Leziate. One case was removed to King's Lynn Isolation Hospital.

During the latter half of the year, the time when Scarlet Fever is usually prevalent, an attempt was made, on the occurrence of a case in a class, to prevent its spread by treatment of other children whose throats and/or noses were found infected with the causative organisms. Local applications were applied by the School Nurse and children were excluded from school until "clear." The amount of benefit that was derived from this practice could not be estimated from one winter's experience, with a limited number of cases.

Infective Hepatitis, or Catarrhal Jaundice, began at Castleacre

in May, and produced cases each month, except August, to a total of 22 by the end of the year. The majority of the infected were school children. The infection was mild and there was no mortality.

The outbreak apparently began with two cases from the school, one a master, and may have been kept going there, and carried out from it, by conditions in the school favouring its spread, viz., over-crowding and very inadequate hand-washing facilities.

Many cases were investigated in an attempt to discover a definite means of transmission, but with no other result than the opinion that close personal contact is necessary for its spread, probably by direct contamination of persons or articles in common use.

There were multiple infections in four houses, of adults and schoolchildren.

Water (apart from the lack of it for personal hygiene) was considered an unlikely means of spread of infection. The majority of the cases had their "supplies" from shallow, unprotected wells, but others who had not been infected drew their water from the same sources. Two of the infected houses had pipe-borne water supplies, which were sampled and found to be free from harmful contents.

Milk and other foods were also discounted as agents of the spread of infection.

Flies may have played a part in the carriage of the disease in the Summer months, but cases occurred in the relatively fly-free months of November and December.

Pail closets are the "sanitary accommodation" and afford opportunities for the contamination of hands, particularly those of children, and it is an assumption that this means of night-soil disposal encourages the spread of Catarrhal Jaundice, particularly when ablution water is scarce. Circulars were distributed to houses through the school advising on preventive measures, and the importance of personal hygiene.

The one case of Poliomyelitis that was reported from the district was a school child at Gayton, who was taken ill in October and was removed to Norwich Isolation Hospital, where she made a speedy and complete recovery.

A detailed investigation was made, without result, in an endeavour to trace the source of the infection.

A woman, who had left Castleacre on 17th July to stay at Altrincham, developed Poliomyelitis on 31st July and died on 1st September. Infection could just as well have been contracted outside the district as in it.

Again, enquiries were made without result.

There were three cases less of Pulmonary Tuberculosis than in 1948.

Of the four new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one was a male, who developed the disease in one of the Services; the other three were females. The respective ages were 19, 20, 55 and 77.

## NUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED YEARLY SINCE 1940.

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.			Tuberculosis other forms.		
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total</i>
1940	1	3	4	—	3	3
1941	1	9	10	3	1	4
1942	2	1	3	—	2	2
1943	3	4	7	3	—	3
1944	3	3	6	2	6	8
1945	2	5	7	1	3	4
1946	6	5	11	—	1	1
1947	4	4	8	3	3	6
1948	4	3	7	3	3	6
1949	1	3	4	3	3	6

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

### (a) Vaccination.

Vaccination was carried out by General Medical Practitioners. Thirty-one Vaccinations were performed, twenty-six Primary Vaccinations and five re-vaccinations, compared with eleven Vaccinations in 1948.

### (b) Immunisations.

Immunisations against Diphtheria were done by General Practitioners, and by the Assistant School Medical Officer in the schools.

Immunisations under 5 years	....	101 (1948 — 126)
Immunisations 5 — 14 years	....	47 (1948 — 92)
Reinforcing injections	....	101 (1948 — 225)
Percentage (estimated) under 5 years immunised	....	34·47%
Percentage (estimated) of school children immunised		91·34%

The estimated percentage of immunised school children is highly satisfactory, considering that the schools are the centres of diseases carried home to children of pre-school age, but the degree of immunisation against Diphtheria among infants is unsatisfactory.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The water shortage of dry years was more acute than ever in 1949. In many places wells ran dry, remaining so for months,



and a considerable task was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector in arranging for many places a constant supply, which had to be enough for daily necessity.

This recurrent, gross and lengthy shortage of the prime need for clean, healthy living, constitutes the biggest Public Health problem of the District, taking precedence over even the Housing situation in urgency of need for attention.

The following information is included in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health:—

(i) The only sizeable pipe-borne water supplies operated by the Council were those from Harpley Dams to the parishes of Great Massingham, Little Massingham and Harpley, and, from the end of the year, the Sandringham Waterworks supplying the Estate. Private Estate supplies go to Castle Rising and Hillington. Ashwicken with Leziate and Bawsey, North and South Wootton obtain water from the King's Lynn mains. Small groups of Council houses at Castleacre, Westacre, Grimston, Middleton, Pentney, East and West Winch, are supplied from local small bore-wells.

On the whole, these water supplies have been satisfactory in:—

- (a) quality
- (b) quantity.

The water obtained by the majority of people in the district from shallow, inadequately protected wells, is:—

- (a) unsatisfactory in quality
- (b) most unsatisfactory in quantity.

(ii) The last report on the Harpley Dams water is given below, and a report on the water at the Grimston Housing Site is also shown.

(A) **Certificate of Analysis.** (Harpley Dams.)

Physical Characteristics	Good.
Reaction	pH 7.5
	<i>parts per 100,000</i>
Chlorine	0.0004
Ammonia (free and saline)	0.0004
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0004
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37° C.	0.0132
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)	0.50
Nitrites	Absent
Poisonous metals	Absent

*Bacteriological Examination.*

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.

Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 37° C. ....	Nil.
Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 21° C. ....	9

*Microscopical Examination of Deposit.*

None.  
 Total Hardness .... 14·84 degrees (grains per gallon)

*Inference.*

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidences of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter.

I am of the opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

(Sgd.) S. GREENBURGH,

28th December, 1949. *Public Analyst.*

(B) **Certificate of Analysis.** (Grimston Housing Site).

Physical characteristics	....	Very slight deposit, otherwise good.
Reaction	....	pH 7·5
		<i>parts per 100,000</i>
Chlorine	....	2·8
Ammonia (free and saline)	....	Absent
Ammonia (albuminoid)	....	0·0016
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37° C.	....	0·346
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)	....	0·50
Nitrites	....	Absent
Poisonous metals	....	Absent

*Bacteriological Examination.*

Coliforms organism absent in 100 mls.	
Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 37° C. ....	3
Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 21° C. ....	35

*Microscopical Examination of Deposit.*

Mainly mineral matter.  
 Total Hardness — 18·22 degrees (grains per gallon).

*Inference.*

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample indicate a fairly hard water containing little organic matter and comparatively few bacteria. I am of the opinion that this water, as evidenced by the sample, is fit for drinking purposes. It is to be

recommended, however, that the supply be kept under observation, particularly after heavy rainfalls.

(Sgd.) S. GREENBURGH,

28th December, 1949.

Public Analyst.

(iii) The water supplies are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) In July, a sample from the Castle Rising supply was found unsatisfactory. It was recommended that the filters be cleaned, and until this was done, that all water be boiled. The last report (in January, 1950) showed the water was satisfactory.

(v) The number of the dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public (and other) mains are shown in the following Table:—

WATER SUPPLIES FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS

Parish.	Supplied direct to Houses.		Supplied by Standpipes.	
	No. of Houses supplied.	Approx. Population.	No. of Houses supplied.	Approx. Population.
Bawsey .....	7	21	8	24
Castleacre .....	—	—	—	—
Castle Rising .....	25*	75*	57*	171*
Congham .....	—	—	—	—
Flitcham .....	—	—	—	—
Gayton .....	24	96	1	10
Grimston .....	—	—	—	—
Harpley .....	3	15	—	—
Hillington .....	40*	120*	22*	65*
Leziate .....	62	206	20	60
Great Massingham	33	115	195	585
Little Massingham	8	30	30	90
Middleton .....	8	36	38	162
Pentney .....	8	25	—	—
Roydon .....	—	—	—	—
North Runcton ....	—	—	—	—
Sandringham .....	150* (approx.)	450*	—	—
East Walton .....	—	—	—	—
Westacre.....	6	24	—	—
East Winch .....	—	—	6	20
West Winch .....	35	105	20	60
North Wootton ....	40	163	53	159
South Wootton ....	190	848	—	—
Totals	639	2329	450	1406

\* Private supplies provided by the Castle Rising, Hillington, and Sandringham Estates, respectively.

## **HOUSING**

During the year, 61 Council Houses were completed.

There were 350 families on the waiting list, of whom the majority were living with relatives or in unfit houses. The number of those on the waiting list with unfit houses is only a proportion of those accommodated in unsatisfactory dwellings. The Hob-house Survey of Housing was completed, and the Report was being submitted to the Council (*see* Sanitary Inspector's Report), which would show that 46·6% of the 3,046 houses inspected were classed as in need of major repairs, structural alterations and improvements.

It has been estimated that it would take 9 — 10 years of new construction before the supply catches up with the demand for housing.

In the circumstances, I recommend that the facilities offered under the Housing Act of 1949, for financial assistance towards the Improvement of Housing Accommodation, should be specially brought to the notice of individual owners of properties, which could be made satisfactory dwellings of sound structure, with decent amenities and conveniences.

## **CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS**

Nothing to report.



# **SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

**For the Year 1949**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

## **1. THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.**

During the year, numerous inspections and re-visits were made to deal with matters coming within the purview of the Act, such as complaints of drainage, water supplies, pollution of water courses, abatement of nuisances, etc. In all, 54 cases were attended to, but in the majority of cases, these were dealt with by interviews with the person or persons concerned, or by informal action, and very few cases had to be reported to the Council. However, during the year, eight Preliminary Notices and one Statutory Notice was served.

## **2. WATER SUPPLIES.**

The parishes of Little Massingham and Harpley were joined to the Harpley — Hillington bore system.

The job of connecting premises to the trunk mains was carried out by the Council's Water Department staff, and I am pleased to report that, considering this was a first attempt at large-scale work of this kind, the job was very well done.

Since the end of December, the operation of the Sandringham Waterworks has been under the control of the Council. Pumping tests at the Hillington bore proved its ability to provide ample water for the proposed Regional Scheme, and sufficient for the supply required by the King's Lynn Corporation. Negotiations with that body on the method of supply had not been completed by the end of the year, so no further progress had been made with Regional Scheme development.

The mid-year of 1949 was an extremely dry period, and because of this and a less than average winter rainfall, there was a widespread, acute and prolonged water shortage in the district, which depends mainly on shallow wells for the water supply of its inhabitants. We had a big job, over a long period, to supply many places with just enough water for bare daily needs.

Sixteen samples of water were taken for Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses, and only half of these were satisfactory.

3. **HOUSING.**

The Rural Housing Survey was completed. 3,046 houses were inspected and classified according to their condition:—

Class I.	Houses suitable in all respects for habitation	....	664		
Class II.	Houses with minor defects, but fit for habitation	....	961		
Class III.	Houses requiring major repairs to fit them for habitation	....      ....      ....      ....      ....      ....	944		
Class IV.	“ Border Line ” houses (between Classes III & V)		127		
Class V.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	....      ....      ....      ....      ....      ....	350		
				<hr/>	
				Total	
				3046	
				<hr/>	

The “ Border Line ” Class contained an appreciable number of houses which were of reasonably sound structure, but were completely lacking in sanitary conveniences, while half of this Class IV might be included in Class V, after further consideration.

All the houses of Class V were bad, and some of them were not only insanitary, but structurally dangerous, and should be dealt with at the earliest opportunity.

Works of re-conditioning existing dwellings, and the erection of new houses, still fail lamentably to keep pace with the acute housing needs of the district. Conditions have been aggravated by the very great difficulty in getting repairs carried out to houses. Rents have remained substantially the same as pre-war, and yet building costs have increased threefold, so there is a marked reluctance on the part of private landlords to do repairs which are not economically equitable with the incoming rentals.

During the year, 10 Preliminary Notices were served, four Closing Orders were issued, of which two were confirmed, and carried out, and three applications for grants under the Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts were dealt with.

As regards the Council’s own housing programme, a change of policy resulted in the Council dispensing with their Architect, and from January onwards the responsibility for the development of the existing Council Estates was placed upon me, with the assistance of the Housing Officer, acting as Clerk of Works.

During the year, 61 Council dwellings were completed. This included outstanding items and clearing up work of previous Contracts carried out by the Council’s late Architect.



#### 4. NEW BUILDINGS.

During 1949, 52 new dwellings were approved under Building Byelaws and/or Town Planning, as follows:—

By the Local Authority:

<i>Parish.</i>		<i>Houses.</i>			<i>Bungalows.</i>
Grimston	....	8	....	....	0
Middleton	....	4	....	....	0
East Winch	....	2	....	....	6
West Winch	....	2	....	....	4

By Private Enterprise:

Castleacre	....	3	....	....	0
Gayton	....	0	....	....	1
Grimston	....	0	....	....	2
Leziate	....	3	....	....	1
Pentney	....	2	....	....	2
North Runcton		0	....	....	1
East Winch	....	0	....	....	1
West Winch	....	1	....	....	4
North Wootton		0	....	....	1
South Wootton		1	....	....	3

During the year, the following new dwellings were completed:—

By the Local Authority:

<i>Parish.</i>		<i>Houses.</i>			<i>Bungalows.</i>
Castleacre	....	10	....	....	0
Flitcham	....	2	....	....	0
Gayton	....	1	....	....	0
Grimston	....	12	....	....	0
Harpley	....	8	....	....	0
Middleton	....	14	....	....	0
East Winch	....	9	....	....	0
North Wootton		3	....	....	0

By Private Enterprise:

Leziate	....	1	....	....	2
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#### 5. CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.

The Building Licensing Regulations have remained in operation throughout the year. The free limit for repairs remained at £100, but in respect of farms and business buildings, this figure was raised to £1,000.

Needless to say, administration of the Licensing Regulations, on behalf of the Ministry of Works, has taken up quite a good deal of my time and that of my clerical assistant.

During the year, a total of 47 applications were dealt with and licences issued, as follows:—

	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Bungalows.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
New Buildings ....	6	6	12	£19,959
Conversions ....	7	4	11	£5,318
Repairs — Number of licences issued			24	£7,504

## 6. **BUILDING BYELAWS AND TOWN PLANNING.**

Following upon the passing of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, the control of interim development passed from the District Councils to the County Councils.

In Norfolk, the County Council delegated certain of the Planning functions to the District Councils. As this Council accepted such delegation of powers, it has meant that, in addition to dealing with all plans submitted under the Building Byelaws, my office, under the terms of delegation, has had to deal with all applications under the Planning Acts as well. This includes all advice to the Public of this new legislation, keeping of maps and statutory records, which are regularly inspected by the County Planning Officer's Department. In brief, a lot of work is done for the County Council, in return for which delegation of power is granted to this Council. I am of the opinion that, for what authority the Council possesses under the term "delegation of powers," it would have been more expedient to have let the County Council administer the Act in its entirety. This extra work has proved a substantial burden to the department, the bulk of the work falling on my clerical assistant. Provision was made for the appointment of extra clerical assistance, for which a contribution from the County Council was available, although we have not yet taken any steps in this direction.

During the year, 45 plans were submitted for approval under Building Byelaws.

## 7. **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

This remains much as in previous years, although a number of vaults and ashpits have been gradually replaced by sanitary pails and refuse bins.

Improvement works were carried out to sewage outfalls of Gayton (Front Street) and Castleacre (Pye Lane) Council Housing Estates.

On the instructions of the Public Health Committee, and in accordance with a letter from the Norfolk County Council which asked for a list of water and sewerage priorities, the question of getting out revised plans and specifications for the sewerage of

South Wootton was gone into, and considerable work towards this end was carried out, culminating in a report which was presented to the Public Health Committee on 6th October.

## 8. **SCAVENGING.**

### (a) **Refuse Collection.**

Collection of refuse was continued throughout the year and fortnightly collections were given to every Parish in the district, with the exception of South Wootton, which is serviced weekly.

All the Council's refuse tips are sprayed regularly throughout the Summer months; as the tip at South Wootton is in a built-up area, proper controlled tipping is exercised, and I am pleased to report very few complaints were received over the year.

### (b) **Pail Emptying.**

A weekly collection of night-soil is made in the Parishes of Harpley, Little Massingham, Great Massingham, and Castleacre.

Whilst on this subject, there appears little likelihood of any village sewerage schemes (except in South Wootton) being considered for some years, and in view of this one strongly recommends the Council to consider seriously the establishment of a weekly collection throughout the district.

The scheme for refuse collection has proved quite satisfactory, and one sees no reason to doubt that a similar scheme for night-soil collection would prove equally effective.

### (c) **Cesspools.**

A cesspool emptying service has been available for the whole district. Throughout the year, 140 cesspools were emptied, including a number at Council Estates. The revenue from private cesspools for the year amounted to £138/5/6.

## 9. **DANGEROUS BUILDINGS.**

Two dwellings were reported to the Public Health Committee as being structurally dangerous. Following action under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and after interviews with the owner, the buildings were demolished.

## 10. **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

During the year, seven visits were made in connection with Scarlet Fever and Tuberculosis, and fumigation was carried out.

In September, much work was done in connection with investigations into an epidemic of Infective Jaundice in Castleacre.



## 11. **FOOD INSPECTION.**

The Ministry of Food abattoir at King's Lynn has dealt with all carcase meat and offal. This is inspected daily by the King's Lynn Borough staff before being allocated to each district.

During the year, however, a number of visits were made to butchers' shops, grocers, etc., and varying quantities of bacon, cheese, and tinned food, etc., were voluntarily surrendered and condemnation certificates issued.

Sixteen visits were made to premises from which ice cream is sold, and one sample for bacteriological examination was taken. The number of ice cream vendors on the Register for the year was 10. There are no ice cream manufacturers in this district, all ice cream sold being what is termed of the "pre-packed" variety. As the commodity is under strict supervision, and regularly sampled at the places of manufacture, this has relieved us somewhat.

## 12. **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.**

During the year, only one site was licensed for moveable dwellings. Frequent inspections have been made, and on one occasion conditions were not satisfactory, as the number of caravans sited did not comply with the conditions of the licence. On request, this matter was remedied by the owner of the field.

## 13. **KNACKERS' YARDS.**

There are two Knackers' Yards in the district, and both premises have been inspected during the year.

## 14. **MILK AND DAIRIES.**

The work of visiting cowsheds and dairies was continued throughout the year, for inspecting methods of production and distribution, although not on the scale one would have liked.

The number of Registered Cowkeepers amounted to 102. To visit each and every place twice a year was found impossible, in view of the numerous other duties imposed on me. However, under the new Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into force on 1st October, milk administration had undergone a complete reorganisation. As from that date, our Register of Cowkeepers was passed over to the County Milk Regulations Officer, and for purposes of administration the new scheme is as follows:—

*Authority.*

Registration of all Dairy Farms	Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.
Licensing of Pasteurising and Sterilising Establishments ....	Norfolk County Council Public Health Department.
Registration of Milk Retailers and Vendors, and Milk Bottling Establishments ....	District Councils.

From this, it will be seen that the responsibilities under the old Milk & Dairies Orders have greatly diminished as far as Local Authorities are concerned.

**15. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.  
INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.**

The arrangements made with the Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee for use of their pest-control service have continued satisfactorily. Throughout the year, 31 individual premises or sites were visited. The cost of this service has to be refunded to the Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee and is borne out of the General Rate. For the year 1949, the cost was £23/5/-.

**16. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

Apart from H.M. Flax Factory, West Newton, there are no factories in the district. The Flax Factory is exempted from inspection by the District Council by Section 150 of the Factories Act.

**CONCLUSION.**

To conclude, the year has been one of gradually increased activity in Public Health and building work, although the staff remains the same.

It is to be regretted that more progress was not made with the Regional Water Scheme.

As regards housing, much time and work has been spent in carrying out the Survey, and in getting out detailed records so as to present the Council with an accurate picture of the general housing conditions of the district. It is to be hoped that the Council will implement the findings of the recent report soon.

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the consideration always afforded me.

I should also like to thank Mr. Peck and Mr. Martin for their loyal co-operation and able assistance in carrying out the duties entrusted to me.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. R. WATKINS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

*Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.*





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